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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
7 October 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Indonesian Situation
(Report # 21 -- As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

1. President Sukarno seems to be making progress in his efforts to play down the 30 September movement and prevent any effective anti-Communist action. The US Embassy comments that there is danger the army may settle for action against those directly involved in the murder of the generals and permit Sukarno to get much of his power back.

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3. An official of the large Moslem party, Nahdatul Ulama, is said to be trying to persuade other leaders of the party to fall in line behind Sukarno's policies and not to engage in anti-Communist activity.

4. The chief of the army information center, Brig. Gen. Subroto, briefed newspaper editors on 7 October as to reportorial policy on the 30 September movement. He described recent events as a "Gestapo-like terror" which was obviously not an internal army affair but a national issue. Since it is a national issue, he said it is therefore proper for the president to urge calmness in settling it.

State Dept. review(s) completed.

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5. At the same time he stated that the people must be given the "real facts" without any "bombastic propaganda" so that the people can judge for themselves who is right and who is wrong. He stressed the need to mobilize communications media to insure that reports reach the largest possible public.

6. The Communist press is still appearing in Medan, North Sumatra--apparently the only area in Indonesia in which this is the case. It is partially ignoring military press controls--so far without suffering any consequences. North Sumatra, however, is the area in which the Communists have made the most progress during the past year toward actual provincial control.

7. The leftist governor in Medan held a meeting on 6 October with the provincial army commander and political party representatives. According to the leftist press, the governor did not denounce the 30 September movement and echoed Sukarno's statement that the "incident" was a political problem that required a presidential solution. He said the duty of all is to wait for and carry out Sukarno's instructions.

8. The Soviet Embassy in Djakarta apparently was not involved in the 30 September movement. The Soviet ambassador has told a western diplomat that he believes the Indonesian Communist Party became involved in the coup attempt at an early stage and criticized their action as contrary to Marxist doctrine.

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